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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/642,642	08/22/2000	SHINGO SUZUKI	107100	9149
25944	7590	04/28/2005	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC			NGUYEN, KIMNHUNG T	
P.O. BOX 19928			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			2674	

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/642,642

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI, SHINGO

Examiner

Kimnhung Nguyen

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Application has been examined. The claims 2 and 9-14 are pending. The examination results are as following

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2, 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yokota et al. (US patent 5,764,315) in view of Sawayama (US 6,048,071).

3. Regarding claim 2, Yokota et al. disclose in figures 14 and 28, a spread illuminating apparatus in which a square transparent substrate (60) is provided close to the surface of a liquid crystal panel (see abstract), and a plurality of straight groove portions (61a, 61b) are formed on the surface of the transparent substrate intersecting one another obliquely with respect to the four sides of the transparent substrate so as to reflect light toward said liquid crystal panel (see a planar lighting device, see column 5, lines 24-29). However, Yokota et al. do not disclose whereby light traveling in a direction substantially parallel to the major surface of the transparent substrate is reflected at said plurality of straight groove portions in a direction substantially perpendicular to the major surface of the transparent substrate so as to travel toward the liquid

Art Unit: 2674

crystal panel. Sawayama discloses in figures 1 and 2(b), a front light (20) traveling and passed through the groove in a direction may be substantially parallel to the major surface of the transparent substrate (2) is reflected at said plurality of straight groove portions in a direction substantially perpendicular to the major surface of the transparent substrate so as to travel toward the liquid crystal display element (10, see abstract, see col. 12, lines 12-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the light traveling and passed through the groove in a direction may be substantially parallel to the major surface of the transparent substrate so as to travel toward the liquid crystal display element as taught by Sawayama into the spread illuminating apparatus in which a square transparent substrate of Yokota et al. because this would provide so as to incline with respect to the normal direction of the light exit surface.

4. Regarding claims 9-11, Yokota et al. disclose that ~~the wherein~~ the groove portions are substantially triangular in cross section (see figures 5, 21), and wherein the interval between the groove portion is decrease as the distance from the bar-like light source (see figure 11, see the angle of two slops of convex and concave, see column 6, lines 7-25), or the depth of the groove portions is increased as the distance from the bar-light source increase (see the dept of convex and concave, see column 6, lines 18-49).

5. Regarding claims 13-14, Yokota et al. disclose that ~~wherein~~ the bar-like light source comprises a bar-like fluorescent tube (33) and the bar-like light source also includes an inherent bar-like transparent light conductive member and a light emitting diode which is provided at the

Art Unit: 2674

end portion of the bar-like transparent light conductive member (see column 1, lines 39-44, see figure 4, column 2, lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 12, Yokota et al. disclose every feature of the claimed invention, excluding the bar-like light source is in the range of 10 to 45 degrees. From the claims, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to the Yokota et al.'s system to have the bar-like light source is in the range of 10 to 45 degrees as claimed since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the range of the system. A change in range is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art, absent unexpected results.

See In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1995) and

In re Raven, 156 USPQ 679 (CCPA 1968).

### ***Response To Arguments***

6. Applicant argues that Egawa (6,295, 104) is disqualified as prior art against the present application invention because the subject matter of Egawa and the present application "were at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person and subject to an obligation of an assignment to the same person". Therefore, Examiner has replaced a new ground rejection.

### ***Correspondence***

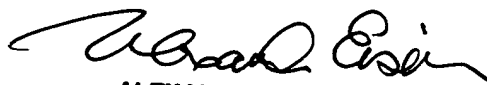
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimnhung Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7698. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI, FROM 8:30 AM-5:30 PM.

Art Unit: 2674

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on (571) 272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kimnhung Nguyen  
April 25, 2005

  
**ALEXANDER EISEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**